

MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

ADDRESS BY THE CHANCELLOR

PROFESSOR GEORGE MONDO KAGONYERA

ON

THE OCCASION OF THE 63RD GRADUATION

CEREMONY

OF

MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY 24TH JANUARY, 2013

The Honourable Minister of Education and Sports

Honourable Ministers present

Honourable Members of Parliament

Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Your Lordships the Judges of the Judicature

Religious Leaders

Your Worship the Mayor Kampala Capital City Authority

Representatives of Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies

Chancellors and former Chancellors present

Chairperson and Members of Makerere University Council

The Vice-Chancellor and your Management team

Former Vice Chancellors and Management Present

Vice Chancellors, Rectors and Principals of other Universities and institutions

Members of the University Senate

Members of Staff of Makerere University

Parents and Guardians

Graduands

The Media Fraternity

Ladies and Gentlemen

Congratulatory statement:

I am extremely pleased to preside over this 63rd Graduation ceremony of Makerere University. I congratulate the graduands for this academic achievement. It is a major milestone in your lives. Not many have been fortunate to make it this far for various reasons. It is therefore an event for you to cherish. Remember that the degrees you are being awarded are mere foundations on which to build your future. You must realize that success in your future performance does not depend on the class of degree alone.

I am happy to note that every year, Makerere continues to graduate students with higher degrees and I warmly congratulate the 61 students graduating with PhDs. Congratulations! It is through postgraduate training that we build capacity for future academicians as well as other intellectual leaders elsewhere.

In a special way, I congratulate the best student in the Sciences and overall in the 63rd graduation ceremony, Mr. Joel Tuliwangula who is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering with a Cumulative Grade Point of 4.89. Congratulations!

I pay special tribute to the members of staff who have prepared our students during their stay here. I also thank the parents, sponsors and guardians for the sacrifices they have made over the years to educate their children.

Governance of the University

I congratulate Professor John Ddumba-Ssentamu upon his appointment as Vice Chancellor. I also congratulate Professor Lillian Tibatemwa-Ekirikubinza for her substantive appointment as 1st Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Academic Affairs. The quality of leadership is critical for the success of any enterprise. The University Council, Senate and Management should work together to have a well-governed Makerere University.

Congratulations to Prof. Joyce Kakuramatsi Kikafunda

Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen, I congratulate Professor Joyce Kakuramatsi Kikafunda on being appointed Uganda's High Commissioner to London.

Professor Kikafunda is an alumnus of Makerere University. She graduated at Makerere University in 1976 with a First Class Honours degree. During her distinguished service at Makerere University, she has been instrumental in the development and growth of the School of Food Technology, Nutrition and BioEngineering at Makerere University. She spearheaded the establishment of the first ever Department of Food Science and Technology in Uganda in 1989, which she headed for 12 years. Prof. Kikafunda we wish you all the best in your new appointment and we appeal to you to continue being our Good Will Ambassador. Congratulations!

Special Message to the Church:

I take this opportunity to recognise the presence of the His Grace Stanley Ntagali, the Archbishop, Church of Uganda to this third session of the 63rd Graduation ceremony. Through His Grace the Archbishop, I appeal to the Church of Uganda to partner with Makerere University to promote ethical values in education.

Achievements in Colleges

Taking stock of the achievements in the Vice Chancellor's speech, I congratulate the academic units presenting students at this third session of the 63rd graduation ceremony for your contribution towards the betterment of Makerere University. As Chancellor, I am happy to note that all the institutional efforts are focused on internationalization of the University.

a) College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

As per the Vice Chancellor's Speech, I congratulate the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences for developing several technologies to improve agricultural production and productivity.

I applaud the staff and students in the College for undertaking research aimed at addressing the issue of food security in this country through developing new banana, tomato and soya varieties which are high yielding and resistant to pests.

I urge the students graduating today to note of the fact that the population is growing exponentially without a corresponding effort in the level of food production. You have a duty to help the responsible organs in this country to address the shortage of food supply in Uganda and the neighboring countries.

***** Makerere to host Multi Million Dollar Initiative**

Focusing on internationalization, I am pleased to note that the University through the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences successfully won the bid to host the Tertiary Education for Agriculture Mechanism (TEAM-Africa), an initiative aimed at reform and renewed investment in Tertiary Agricultural Education (TAE) in Africa. TEAM-Africa is the creation of a Working Group (WG) involving key players in the Higher Education sector like the; Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), African Network for Agriculture, Agroforestry and Natural Resources Education (ANAFE) and Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) with participation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)'s Coordinating Agency (NPCA) and other partners. I am happy to note that this grant which is over \$ 300million will run for five years with funding from the World Bank. **Congratulations!**

b) College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, there is no country that can advance without the promotion of technology.

I therefore commend the staff and students in the College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology for the development of Uganda's first electric car codenamed, Kiira-Ev.

I support all the ongoing research initiatives aimed at improving the public transport.

I am pleased to note that after the completion of the Kiira Ev, the Government of Uganda under the leadership of H.E President YOweri K. Museveni has earmarked Shs. 150billion towards the construction of the Centre for Research in Transport Technologies. I look forward to the production of the solar and electric bus code-named Kayoola. Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, this entire great breakthrough in research is taking place here at Makerere University.

I also applaud the staff and students in the College for the research being undertaken to develop the first locally manufactured smart phone, code-named the PEARL.

As the Government of Uganda focuses on promoting industrialization, science and technology, I am greatly indebted to the Government for its continued support to the College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology.

c) School of Law

As per the Vice Chancellor's speech, I commend the School of Law for launching the public interest Law Clinic, the first of its kind at a University in Uganda. I am happy to learn that the launch of the public interest Law Clinic is timely and focused on addressing the education challenges particularly the gap in accessing social justice.

To the Law graduands, you have a cardinal duty to use your profession to be a voice for the voiceless.

d) The College of Education and External Studies

I also join the Vice Chancellor to congratulate the College of Education and External Studies for their contribution to the development of the higher education sector in Uganda and beyond. I commend the college for publishing 17 titles of short stories for New readers in four languages namely Lugwara, Luganda, Luo and English.

Concluding remarks:

Once again, I would like to congratulate Makerere University, graduands and parents for a job well done.

Professor George Mondo Kagonyera, Chancellor, Makerere University